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WCVI-TV Serving The United States Virgin Islands o St. Croix a St. Thomas ■ St. John

**The People's Channel**

INSPECTED

MAR 24 2003

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March 19, 2003

By Express Mail # EU 774532990 US

Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary of the FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Filing of Comments in Docketed Proceeding 03-20, RM-10634

To Whom it May Concern:

Enclosed for filing are an original and four copies of comments in the above noted proceeding.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,  
Virgin Blue, Inc.

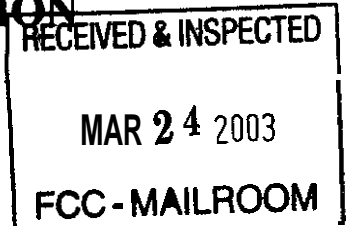
Victor A. Gold, President

enc.

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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.



In re:

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 73.606 (b)  
TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS FOR  
ANALOG TV BROADCAST STATIONS  
CHRISTIANSTED, VIRGIN ISLANDS

MM Docket No. 03-20  
RM-10634

TO: Chief, Allocations Branch  
Policy and Rules Division

COMMENTS ON PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Virgin Blue, Inc. , licensee of commercial analog TV station WCVI-TV ("WCVI"), Channel 27, Christiansted, Virgin Islands, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, hereby comments on the pending rulemaking proceeding to amend CFR § 73.606(b) of its Rules to add analog Channel 39 to the table of allotments for Christiansted, Virgin Islands. This additional analog channel would serve the public interest. In addition, as the attached technical documentation demonstrates, WCVI's proposed analog operation on Channel 39 will not cause impermissible interference to any other station.

WCVI proposes the following amendment to CFR § 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules:

<del>Community</del>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Christiansted, Virgin Islands	8+, 15, 21*, 27	8+, 15, 21*, 39

In support of this petition, WCVI submits the following:

A. A Petition for Rulemaking is the only Available Avenue of Relief for WCVI

WCVI is a local broadcast station operating as a primary affiliate of the United

Paramount Network (UPN), WCVI has operated **as a** commercial station on analog Channel **27** in ~~Christiansted~~, Virgin Islands since March **1, 2000**, providing entertainment and informative programming, including children's programming to the Virgin Islands audience which had only one ~~non-commercial~~ broadcast TV station (WTJX) and only one commercial broadcast TV station (WSVI) prior to WCVI going on the air. In the *Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration of the Sixth* Report and *Order* in MM Docket **87-268**, FCC **98-24** (adopted January **29, 1998**), the Commission allocated Channel **27** **as** the digital channel for WAPA-DT in San Juan, Puerto Rico. WAPA-DT began testing their digital transmission equipment on or about October **14, 2002** at a power level of **39%** of their permissible power output of **1,000** Kilowatts with its antenna's radiation center located more than **3,700** feet above sea level at a distance of only **145.89** kilometers or less than **91** miles from WCVI's transmitter location. For any new digital allocation, the separation table in **CFR § 73.623** requires **273.6** Kilometers or **170** miles between co-channel analog and digital transmitters. The predictability of WAPA-DT interfering with WCVI's analog signal **is** obvious to anyone with even the most basic technical understanding of radio wave propagation. WCVI became immediately aware of interference caused by the digital signal of WAPA-DT, when over-the-air viewers and the cable TV system on St. Thomas reported that WCVI's picture was being "**knocked out**" completely. Subsequent discussions with, and tests performed by WAPA-DT's personnel (**see** data following this Petition) have shown that even at a power level of only **7%** of their permitted **1,000** Kilowatts, WAPA-DT's digital signal on Channel **27** will interfere with WCVI's analog signal on Channel **27**, on both **St. Croix** and **St. Thomas**. To completely eliminate the problems caused by this overwhelmingly strong co-channel interference, WCVI now **seeks** to add analog channel **39** to the table of allotments **so as to** facilitate a channel

change to analog channel **39** to avoid the interference from WAPA-DT channel **27** and to continue to enable WCVI to reach it's viewers throughout the Virgin Islands. WCVI makes this request for the following additional reasons:

1. As a relatively new broadcaster in a small, non-Nielsen rated, market, WCVI remains mindful of the necessity of reaching as many viewers as possible. It is estimated that the interference from WAPA-DT would reduce the number of potential viewers by more than **50%**. It is essential, from both a community service standpoint as well as a business standpoint that WCVI be able to provide it's programming to all Virgin Islands television viewers.
2. The distance between WCVI's analog transmitter site and WAPA-DT's transmitter is **less** than **75** kilometers. The separation table in CFR § **73.623** requires **273.6** Kilometers between co-channel analog and digital transmitters. While we understand that WAPA-DT is operating on a channel and at a location and power level allocated by the FCC, it makes no sense for the digital progress of WAPA-DT to result in the virtual elimination of an existing analog station by rendering it impossible for more than half the viewing audience to receive the signal of WCVI on it's allocated analog Channel **27**.
3. As demonstrated in the attached Engineering statement, analog channel **39** will transmit from the existing WCVI-TV transmitter site and provide the requisite community coverage for the existing audience of Virgin Islands viewers.

**B. The Proposed Change to the Table of Allotments Will Serve the Public Interest**

The Proposed Change to the Table of Allotments Will Serve the Public Interest by allowing WCVI-TV to continue to reach its over-the-air viewers throughout the Virgin Islands and to reach the cable TV head ends on St. Croix and St. Thomas, as well as the MMDS head end on St. Thomas and virtually duplicate the audience it had on Channel **27** prior to the

interference caused by WAPA-DT.

C. The Proposed Change to the Table of Allotments Will Not Result in Impermissible Interference with Surrounding Stations.

Under CFR § 73.610 of the Commission Rules, an existing analog TV licensee may seek a change in the station's channel if the licensee demonstrates that the change complies "with the requirements specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section". The referenced sections provide for minimum distance separation between co-channel stations so as to avoid interference between the signals on the same channel. Studies performed and attached to this petition demonstrate that operation on Channel 39 complies with all the required separation distances and will not result in new interference exceeding the *de minimus* standard set forth in that section..." In accordance with these rules, WCVI requests that the Commission substitute analog Channel 39 for analog channel 27.

As the engineering statement accompanying this petition demonstrates, the proposed operation of WCVI-TV on Channel 39 with ERP of 26.67 kW (utilizing an omnidirectional antenna) with its radiation center located at the same elevation as the existing Channel 27 transmitting system, will result in a signal that duplicates the signal strength and contours as the engineering studies performed for the application for Channel 27 for WCVI-TV.

## CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons, WCVI submits its comments and requests that the Commission amend CFR § 73.606(b) of its Rules to add analog Channel 39 to the table of allotments for analog TV stations for Christiansted, Virgin Islands. WCVI states that if its petition is granted, that it will promptly apply for a Construction Permit for analog Channel 39 and will promptly perform the necessary tasks to begin broadcasting on analog Channel 39 and cease

analog broadcasting on Channel 27.

**VERIFICATION**

The undersigned, does hereby state that all information contained in these comments, the attachments, and engineering data attached thereto, is true and accurate based on his own personal knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,  
VIRGIN BLUE, INC. WCVI-TV

Dated: March 10, 2003

By:



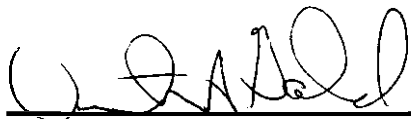
**Victor A. Gold, President**  
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Channel Change Analysis  
WCVI-TV  
Christiansted, Virgin Islands

WCVI-TV in Christiansted, Virgin Islands has been allotted and is operating on analog channel **27**. WCVI-TV wishes to change its analog assignment to channel **39** for technical and economic reasons. Technical reasons include **overwhelming** interference from WAPA-DT operating on channel **27** from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

An analysis has been performed to determine the feasibility of the proposed channel change. The study assumed that WCVI-TV would operate on channel **39** at **26.67 kW** ERP with an omni-directional antenna with the radiation center **158** meters above mean sea level. The proposed channel addition of UHF channel **39** is in strict compliance with all of the separation requirements set forth in CFR § **73.610** and CFR § **73.698** for all analog TV stations and has no greater likelihood of creating interference than presently exists in the operation on analog channel **27**.

On the following page is a tabulation of the height above average terrain (**HAAT**) for the standard **8** radials plus one toward the community of license along with the distances to the A and B contours. These calculations result in a service contour predicted by the Longley-Rice propagation method which **verifies** that the proposed facility provides **more** than adequate service to the community of Christiansted, Virgin Islands and is a signal of identical strength as that licensed to WCVI-TV in its present operation on analog Channel **27**.



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Prepared by Victor A. Gold  
Chief Engineer for WCVI-TV

VIRGIN BLUE, INC. WCVI-TV  
Analog TV Channel 39 Zone 2  
  
ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS

**TERRAIN AND COVERAGE DATA**

ERP = **26.67 kW**

RCAMSL = **158** meters

HRCAAT = **130.2** meters

**Site Location**

**N 17° 44' 40"**

**W 64° 43' 40"**

Azimuth Degrees True	Average Radial Elevation  (Meters)	Radiation Center <b>HAAT</b>  (Meters)	Distance to Grade A Contour <b>74 dBu</b>  (Kilometers)	Distance to Grade B Contour <b>64 dBu</b>  (Kilometers)
<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>158.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>37.2</b>
<b>45.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>158.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>37.2</b>
<b>79.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>36.8</b>
<b>90.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>32.3</b>
<b>135.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>144.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>36.1</b>
<b>180.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>36.6</b>
<b>225.0</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>147.7</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>36.3</b>
<b>270.0</b>	<b>130.6</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>315.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>151.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>36.7</b>
Average:	<b>27.8</b>	<b>130.2</b>		

Bearing to Christiansted , Virgin Islands = **79.7** degrees not include in average

Distance from site to Christiansted , Virgin Islands = **2.6** kilometers



VIRGIN BLUE, INC. WCVI-TV  
Analog Channel 39 Zone 2

**TV ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS**

TRANSMITTER SITE 11 Estate Princesse Hill, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

Channel 39  
Zone 2

Site Location  
N 17° 44' 53"  
W 64° 43' 40"

Site Elevation 140 meters AMSL  
Radiation center 158 meters AMSL  
Support structure 23 meters AGL  
Nearest Airport 7.9 Kilometers

STUDIO LOCATION Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

**EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

Frequency Visual 621.25 mHz Aural 625.75 mHz  
Transmitter 1kW ADC (now Axcerra) 830A  
Transmission Line 18.29 meter length of Andrew 41.27 mm diameter, rigid type  
LDF7-50A Hellax  
Transmit Antenna Propagation Systems, Inc., PSILP16, 16 Bay  
Gain re Dipole 14.61 dB  
Beam Tilt 0 degrees  
Null Fill None  
Input Power 1kW  
Orientation Omnidirectional

**POWER CALCULATIONS**

VISUAL

AURAL

Transmitter Output Power	0.00 dBk (1.0kW)	-10.00 dBk (.1kW)
Transmission Line Loss	.35 dBk	-.35 dB
Input Power to Antenna	-.35 dBk	-10.35 dBk
Maximum Antenna Gain	<u>14.61 dB</u>	<u>14.61 dB</u>
Maximum ERP	14.26 dBk (26.67 kW)	4.26 dBk (2.67kW)